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119
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SOME OUTSTANDING 4-H CLUB ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 1935

A radio talk by Gertrude L. Warren, Organization of 4-H Club Work, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered in the National 4-H Club Radio Program, February 1, 1936, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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At the beginning of this New Year, it is certainly a pleasure to chat with you 4-H members again, particularly after hearing so many fine things said of you during 1935. An official of the Farm Credit Administration recently stated "That so far as their investigations had gone they had not found a single foreclosure case where a member of the family had participated in 4-H club work." At about the same time, the Secretary of a State Banker's Association stated that "never to his knowledge had a 4-H member failed to meet his obligations at a bank." Such comments indicate that your club experiences have well fitted you 4-H members - now nearly a million strong - to meet the tests of the ideals expressed in your 4-H insignia. In fact, as the year 1935 passes in review, all the work done seems to be in keeping with these ideals as related to individual achievement, group cooperation, wise expenditure of money and happy constructive use of leisure time. Through it all, the 4-H program, tuned to the pulse of every day living, has met a response from you members that in turn has proved a real inspiration to your leaders, parents and friends.

During 1935, according to our reports, you 4-H girls canned altogether over 7,000,000 jars of fruits, vegetables and meats for the winter's food supply - or enough to meet the winter needs of 35,000 farm families. Over 200,000 of you applied your food club training to the preparation of nutritious meals in keeping with the principles of a well-balanced diet and a well-planned family budget. Nearly 350,000 of you girls skillfully made and repaired clothing for yourselves and your younger brothers and sisters. While reports of a 150,000 of you girls indicate how you added comfort and beauty to your homes by refinishing furniture, painting the woodwork, making simple attractive furnishings and planting native shrubs around your own farmsteads. In the general 4-H housing program in which over 300,000 members were actively at work, you boys also played an important part. In Michigan alone over 5,000 young men were engaged in the making and repairing of farm and home equipment, with those of Nebraska, New York and Montana adding considerably to the totals.

But even that was a relatively small part of what you 4-H boys did. Let's try to picture your results! Over a million bushels of potatoes and nearly 2 million bushels of corn; not to mention such cereals as wheat, oats, rye and barley - all produced by modern up-to-date farm practices. Then the livestock the 40,000 head of dairy cattle; the 20,000 beef cattle; the 35,000 sheep; and the 85,000 hogs together with over 2 million birds in the 4-H poultry club flocks! Nor should be omitted your various activities in forestry; rural engineering, including terracing to prevent soil erosion; cooperative marketing; farm accounting as well as other lines of farming and homemaking including the accomplishments of the garden clubs in which 35,000 of you members raised vegetables in keeping with your family

(over)

food budgets.

... And that brings me to the management of the dollar! This past year, the number keeping personal accounts nearly trebled. And these personal accounts were often accompanied by bank savings accounts. The uses made of the money saved this past year reveal the large number of 4-H members who are now in college or have started farming for themselves.

An outstanding accomplishment of the 4-H music appreciation program was the presentation in Iowa of an adaptation of the opera "The Bohemian Girl," which had been studied by all 4-H members of the State, and presented at 100 4-H county rally days as well as at other county and township events. In addition, very gratifying were the play tournaments held, the work of the 4-H bands, orchestras, and choruses, the 5,000 4-H tours conducted, as well as the 2,000 camps held. Of particular significance were the wild life conservation camps, in which wild life was studied, appreciations developed and a more abundant life glimpsed.

As a recognition of the value of 4-H club work, State 4-H Fair buildings were erected in three States--New York, Kansas and Oklahoma. Then, of course, of particular interest, was the organization of 4-H club work in Puerto Rico, in 1935, on the same basis as that in Hawaii and Alaska.

In all this, I know that you, as 4-H club members, are deeply grateful to your county agents and local leaders who have helped you so ably to make possible this panorama of significant accomplishments in 1935. In closing, my best New Year's wish is that these splendid accomplishments will be a real challenge to you in making 1936 an even better 4-H club year!

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